

## Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for facilitating private instruction over a network between a  
2 teacher and a student, comprising the steps of:
  - 3 receiving student profile information from each student who  
4 registers for a private course;
  - 5 adding each student who registers for a private course to a list of  
6 students who are unassigned to a teacher;
  - 7 enabling access to the list of students and the profile information  
8 of the students over the network by each teacher who is able to teach a  
9 private course; and
  - 10 assigning one of the teachers capable of teaching a given private  
11 course to one of the students in the list of students enrolled in that given  
12 private course based upon the profile information of that student.
- 13 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of assigning one of the  
14 authorized teachers to one of the student includes selecting that one  
15 student from the list of students by that one teacher.
- 16 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of assigning one of the  
17 authorized teachers to one of the students includes selecting that one  
18 teacher from a list of teachers by an administrator.
- 19 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising placing each student in the list  
20 of students in an order based upon an enrollment date of each student.

1    5. The method of claim 1 wherein the teacher assigned to the one student is  
2        in a different time zone than that student.

1    6. The method of claim 1 further comprising communicating between the  
2        assigned teacher and the student to negotiate terms related to  
3        conducting the given private course.

1    7. The method of claim 6 wherein one negotiated term is when a discussion  
2        session is to occur between the assigned teacher and the student.

1    8. The method of claim 1 wherein each student profile information identifies  
2        a preferred time of day and a preferred day of the week for conducting a  
3        discussion session with a teacher.

1    9. The method of claim 1 further comprising opening a voice channel  
2        between the assigned teacher and student for conducting discussion  
3        sessions.

1    10. The method of claim 1 further comprising opening a text channel  
2        between the assigned teacher and student for conducting discussion  
3        sessions.

1    11. The method of claim 1 wherein the given private course is a course for  
2        teaching a language that is foreign to the student.

1    12. The method of claim 10 wherein the foreign language is English.

1    13. A server system for facilitating private instruction over a network  
2                 between a teacher and a student, comprising:  
3                         an input system receiving student profile information from each  
4                 student who registers for a private course;  
5                         a queue listing students registered for a private course who are  
6                 unassigned to a teacher, the queue of students and the profile  
7                 information of the students being accessible over the network by each  
8                 client system that is operated by a teacher who is able to teach a private  
9                 course; and  
10                 software executing on the server system in communication with a  
11                 client system over the network, the software assigning a teacher who is  
12                 able to teach a given private course to one of the students in the queue of  
13                 students registered in that given private course based upon the profile  
14                 information of that student.

1    14. The server system of claim 13, wherein the client system is operated by a  
2                 given teacher who is able to teach the given private course, and wherein  
3                 the software assigns the given teacher to a student in response to input  
4                 from the client system indicating that the teacher selected that student.

1    15. The server system of claim 13, wherein the client system is operated by  
2                 an administrator, and wherein the software assigns a teacher to a  
3                 student in response to input from the client system indicating that the  
4                 administrator matched that teacher to that student.

1 16. The server system of claim 13 wherein the network is the World Wide  
2 Web.

1 17. The server system of claim 13 wherein each student profile information  
2 identifies a preferred time of day and a preferred day of the week for  
3 conducting a discussion session with a teacher.

1 18. An article of manufacture having computer-readable program means  
2 embodied thereon for facilitating private instruction over a network  
3 between a teacher and a student, the article of manufacture comprising:  
4  
computer-readable program means for receiving student profile  
information from each student who registers for a private course;  
computer-readable program means for adding each student who  
registers for a private course to a list of students who are unassigned to a  
teacher;  
computer-readable program means for enabling access to the list  
of students and the profile information of the students over the network  
by each teacher who is able to teach a private course; and  
computer-readable program means for assigning one of the  
teachers able to teach a given private course to one of the students in the  
list of students enrolled in that given private course based upon the  
profile information of that student.

1 19. The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein the computer-readable  
2 program means for assigning one of the teachers to one of the students  
3 in the list of students assigns that one teacher to that one student in

4 response to input from a client system operated by that one teacher  
5 indicating that that teacher selected that one student.

1 20. The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein the computer-readable  
2 program means for assigning one of the teachers to one of the students  
3 in the list of students assigns that one teacher to that one student in  
4 response to input from a client system operated by an administrator  
5 indicating that the administrator matched that one teacher with that one  
6 student.

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